

EVEN THOUGH more than a month has passed since the recent floods invaded Torrance, Earl street which parallels Hawthorne, remains a contaminated lake with more than six inches of water. In the top picture, Mrs. Mary Stonebreaker, mother of three children, looks out of garage house window which also serves as the door. Below the window is a kid's cart, used as a bridge to avoid falling into the water. Picture in the center shows a clothesline standing in the water with clothes hanging on the line. In the distance is a Model A Ford sitting almost in the center of the lake. Center picture was taken by climbing through Mrs. Stonebreaker's window-door and taking the picture from her front door which was impassable due to the lake. Picture at the bottom shows Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Graves standing on a bridge built so that the couple and their two children could travel back and forth. —Press photo

Killman Reveals Interest Points On Trip to East

Reverend Russell Killman, now in Formosa, hasn't forgotten his friends and Baptist congregation in Torrance. This week, in a news letter released to the Press, he reported that he arrived safely in the Philippines—having flown 9,000 miles over the water. Then after a layover in Manila, he arrived at Taipei, an ancient Chinese city on the island of Formosa.

Here are some excerpts from Killman's letter:

"I arrived at Taipei refreshed after our layover in Manila. A Philippines airline official saw me through customs. Coming in with 40 rolls of film is a rather touchy item here where a person could speculate on such items. But the Lord is gracious; they looked at all the film, the new movie camera and just passed me through.

NEW AIRPORT

"Leaving the airport in a carry-all wagon, we had no sooner gone one mile when I took out my movie camera to get some pictures of a heathen sacrifice.

"The Chinese had sacrificed several large pigs to the god of the farmers. The high priest would come around and bless the slaughtered pig, then the people would cut up the pig and distribute the meat around. There was no shortage of pork chops in that area. Amidst all the smell and slaughtering I thought we were being ambushed only to find out they were setting off a string of firecrackers.

176 New Homes To Be Erected

Torrance has hit another construction spiral. With several more days to go before leap year February winds up this month, a one and one-half million dollar housing project is on record with the building department at the City Hall today.

The tract, located between Prairie and Hawthorne on 176th and 177th streets, includes 176 homes and garages to be constructed. There will be 55 \$8500 homes and 121 \$9000 homes, the records show. In addition, all 176 homes will have garages valued at \$540 each.

This tract will be constructed by Seaboard Construction Corporation associated with Don-Jaran Construction and also the Sun View Homes, Incorporated.

Poor Drainage Causes Contamination of Water

A contaminated lake on Earl Street caused by poor drainage rather than the floods could carry typhoid germs into Torrance, residents from the area informed the City Council at a meeting held a week ago Wednesday.

Both Councilmen and City Manager George Stevens told the group that they could give them no relief.

It was pointed out that during the heaviest part of the rains, no lake existed. However, during the third day, someone on a neighboring street up above, cut a ditch which had served as a dike, and the Earl Street residents were recipients of a lake which "smells like horse manure."

STAGNANT WATER

Ed Kilgroe, 22704 Earl, said to Council members: "The stagnating water is beginning to stink. It has already stopped up one cesspool. I would like to have you people give us some consideration. We certainly will have mosquitos in droves, later. A few already have invaded our home."

City Manager Stevens said that even if a drainage project was undertaken, it would be several years before the County Flood Control District would put it into effect.

A. E. Thomas, 22401 Ocean avenue, angrily accused Stevens of stalling: "You people know it would only take \$400 to \$600 to

G.O. BOOTS REAL ESTATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

REALTOR GERALD ALTER

REALTER GERALD ALTER is shown hoisting a sign for his fourth office on Torrance Blvd., the miracle mile of Torrance. Alter took the office over from G. O. Boots Bailey who is leaving for Alaska. The office will be operated by two well-known local realtors. Georgia Marlow will serve as manager and Eliza Travioli will assist her. —Press photo

NEW CITY DUMP SITE TOP LOCAL 'SECRET'

Chamber to Be Open on Saturdays

Half-day Saturday opening for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce begins immediately, Dale Isenberg, Executive Secretary, announced today.

"We took the matter up at the Board of Directors meeting on Monday evening," said Isenberg, and President Robert I. Flomert Jr. and the rest of the Board agreed that the Chamber would be able to give more efficient service to the community in this manner.

Next meeting of the Chamber will be the Fellowship Dinner, to be held at the Jonathan Club, March 10, at which time the outgoing and in-coming president will be honored.

Preparation is being made for the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner, to be held March 26 in the Civic Auditorium.

Board members at the meeting Monday also agreed to sponsor the shoppers' guide, 1952 edition.

Other matters taken up were the announcement of the membership drive, to be started in April, requesting Isenberg to write a letter to the YMCA, commending the organization on its activities for 1951, and the establishment of six holidays that the Chamber will observe. They are Christmas, New Years, Thanksgiving, Labor Day, Memorial Day, and July 4.

Spokesman Says Strong City Group Aids Isen's Race

The "City of Torrance" has picked a new dump site, but its location is so secret, according to Jack Baldwin, local reporter, that only his boss, the ruling four on the City Council and the City Manager know about it.

Even Councilman Nick Drale, whose fight for a new dump has won the hearts of the residents of the Kettler Knolls area, is not supposed to know where the new site is located.

The ruling four and their "boss" probably will spring the purchase just before election in order to say "we did it."

But the people of Torrance remember, and it will be a feather in the cap of Councilman Drale who is the sole supporter of the residents in the area of the present dump in their fight against rats, vermin, flies, filth, dust, smoke and all that goes with the dump.

Councilman Drale did get the dump cleaned up.

Councilman Drale saw to it that money was provided in the budget for a new dump sufficiently removed from human habitation that it will never be a health menace.

And Councilman Drale got the promise the present dump will be closed "within a year"—and that year will be up just about election time, in April.

Baldwin made his revealing statement at the town meeting of Torrance Unified Taxpayers in the Waterfall Recreation Hall Friday night.

TOWN MEETING

A Town Meeting of Torrance Unified Taxpayers will be held Friday night, February 22, 1952, at 8, in the Higgins Brick & Tile Co. rumpus room, 2217 W. 174th St. You are invited to come out and hear a discussion of Torrance problems, and to hear candidates on the "BID for Better Government Ticket."

Nearly 100 persons filled the

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Strong City Group Aids Isen's Race

Bearing the signatures of 10 outstanding community leaders of Torrance, the nominating petition for Albert Isen, lawyer, property owner and business man, as a candidate for the City Council in the April 8 Municipal Election was filed with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett Monday.

Those who signed Isen's petition are: Capt. John R. Winters, hotel man and retired fire captain; Dr. A. P. Stevenson, M.D.; M. J. Fenwick, of Fenwick's Shoe Repair; Perry Lee Connert, Realtor, and secretary and treasurer of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board; Ambrose H. Silligo, Torrance Lumber Co.; A. E. McTea, Ike's General Petroleum Service Station; J. Hugh Sherkey, former Mayor and mem-

\$5500 Gas Tax Given By Census

More than \$5500 in gas tax money in the addition to the amount already received, will be given to the City of Torrance for its April-May-June allotment as a result of the special census which showed that 31,517 residents now live here, City Manager George Stevens, revealed today.

He pointed out that the \$5500 was a mere drop in the bucket, compared with the actual money benefit that Torrance would receive. County and state gas tax and state in lieu tax-money will total \$65,000 more in each year as a result of the special census.

Stevens said that it cost the City of Torrance \$3700 to make the survey.

"We plan to improve Sepulveda, from Hawthorne to Crenshaw, as our first project," said Stevens. "All \$5500 that we get for the next quarter will go into this project."

He pointed out that this would only be a start since the actual improvement would cost a lot more than the City has.

Stevens said that 60% of all gas tax money must go into construction work on highways, and 40% can be used for maintenance.



ALBERT ISEN —Press photo

Board Okay Stamped on Bus Plan

School board members at a regular meeting, Tuesday evening, listened to a plan presented by parents within the North Torrance Elementary School for providing transportation for youngsters within a six-tenths of a mile radius and voted unanimously to approve it.

Board president, Judge John Shidler thanked the parents for working on a committee with Bus Supervisor John Mock to work out the plan. Among others on the parent committee were Leonard Martin and Leonard Chanda.

Final decision of the Board did not go along with the recommendation of Superintendent J. H. Hull. He contended that if North Torrance children were permitted to ride within a six-tenths of a mile radius, the same would be demanded by parents in other areas.

Board member William Tolson pointed out that the bus transportation was available in North Torrance, and it would not cost the district additional money. He further said: "we can set policy to a certain point but if facts override that policy, it becomes necessary to change it."

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Pacific Hill Home Owners Want Oil Dump Fenced

For the past year, the Torrance Press through its editorial columns has led a continuous crusade to close the oil dump, a former gravel pit, which is operating illegally in Pacific Hills. With the help of Councilman Nick Drale, the Press succeeded in forcing the Council to close this dump at a regular Council meeting, October 9, 1951.

DISREGARD LAW

However, November 13, 1951, disregarding the law which forbids the operating of the dump in this area, the Council voted four to one to reopen this alleged illegal operation. K. Sande Senness was granted a license on December 27, 1951. Nick Drale was the only councilman who opposed the operation of the dump.

This week, the Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc., sent a letter to the City Council, reminding the local legislators that the matter has not been forgotten as far as the homeowners are concerned. A copy of the letter was also sent to both local newspapers. Here is the letter:

PACIFIC HILLS HOME OWNERS, INC.
Torrance, California
February 14, 1952

Editor, Torrance Press:

Last year the Pacific Hills Home Owners Association appointed a committee to find out why the oil sump on Tract No. 9765, Parcel No. 5, had not been fenced for adequate protection.

We were informed by your former City Engineer, Mr. Joseph, that he would try to have this pit fenced by the owner, K. Sande Senness. On October 9, 1951, the Council members unanimously voted to close the dump if the owner had no license. Mr. Senness applied for a license to

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Pacific Hill Group Gets Help Offer

A news story appeared in the Torrance Press last week listing all the ills in Pacific Hills which had been ignored by the City. Among these was the matter of 88 homes which were not provided with plumbing inspection doors.

One official—City Plumber Arthur S. Moore—was moved to immediate action by the story.

"Your article mentioned plumbing trap outlets," he stated. "I know what you're talking about; you mean plumbing inspection doors."

It was pointed out to Moore that it was a city violation not to provide the homes with these doors. He was further told that the news story was not written to get involved in the terminology of the plumbing trade—Only purpose was to correct a negligent oversight on the part of the person who inspected the homes.

As a result of the article, Moore called James Minter, president of the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association and offered to meet with the group at their next meeting.

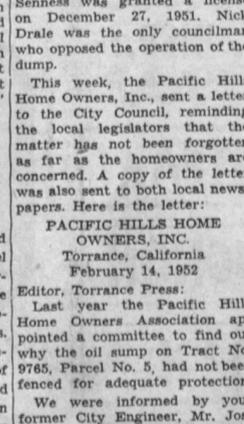
When Moore came to the Press office, he declared: "I'll admit those 88 homes should never have passed inspection, but I wasn't the city plumber when it happened."

Controversy Over 2 Ends

The Steelworkers' Union and Management at Columbia Steel reached an agreement in the firing of two men which led to the nearly-one-month-long work stoppage for almost 1200 employees.

Columbia Steel agreed to reinstate George Dawson, one of the two men fired, after he had served a five-day suspension period, a company spokesman revealed today.

Don Baker, now in the Navy had his discharge confirmed and will not be able to return to Columbia after he serves his hitch in the Armed Forces, it was disclosed.



THAT GRACIOUS SMILE by Mrs. Gertrude McCracken, mother of Lois Litaker, local realtor, is an expression of real satisfaction. Mrs. McCracken won a home freezer by counting 1371 dots in the "Lomita Count the Dot" contest, sponsored by the Town and Country T.V. and Appliance Store. Contest served as a climax for the grand opening of the store, located at 1334 El Prado. —Press photo

'Dime Stores' Settle Union Problem Here

A compromise agreement between chain variety store operators and Retail Clerks Union Local 905 this week prevented a possible strike involving clerks of the "dime stores" of the Harbor Area, including the J. J. Newberry Co. store in Torrance, it was announced.

The variety stores now are operating on a five-day week, eight hours a day, and agreed to petition with the union for approval of a \$3.00 per week increase in wages.

No other conditions of the contract were changed, it was said.

Officials pointed out that the chain variety stores operate on a separate contract from the Mercantile agreement controlling labor relations of other stores with the Clerks Union. The Mercantile agreement had been settled after a strike involving several stores last week.

Endorsement For School Bonds Given

School officials, local industry and the Council of the Parent Teachers Association are on record favoring the \$3,000,000 school bond issue to be voted upon next Tuesday, it was reported today.

The present bond issue makes the fourth time that the Board of Education has found it necessary to ask the people for additional funds within the last six years.

July 22, 1947, the Board was frozen out of its Average Daily Attendance money by the Los Angeles Board of Education when Torrance took over its own system. As a result, voters were asked for \$150,000 for operating expenses, assessed through a special fifty cent tax.

June 4, 1948, \$1,320,000 in bonds were approved by the voters for additional school buildings.

March 21, 1951, a \$2,000,000 bond issue was approved for more buildings.

The current \$3,000,000 bond issue will finance three elementary schools and a high school, Board of Education members reported.

Since Torrance took over its own school system, 11 new schools have been constructed, a board of education headquarters building, and one school rebuilt, it was revealed.

TUT to Hold Friday Meet

Torrance Unified Taxpayers will organize the North Torrance branch of TUT at Higgins Brick and Tile Company, 2217 W. 174th Street, Friday at 7:30 p.m. James Gray, organizer of the meeting, disclosed today. Residents of the area and surrounding communities are invited to attend this open meeting.

Among other prominent guests expected to be on hand for the meeting are incumbent councilman Nick Drale who lives in the area.